(d) Government is conducting regular rounds of nation-wide sentinel surveillance to track geographical spread of the HIV epidemic. The data is also used for estimation of total HIV infected persons in the country. These data reveal that the estimated number of HIV infection was 3.5 million in 1998, 3.71 in 1999, 3.86 million in 2000 and 3.97 million in the year 2001. These data indicate that there has been showing in the growth of the epidemic.

Tenure of CGHS doctors

2683. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any norm that a CGHS doctor will not remain in a single place for more then a specified period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guidelines have been formulated for transfer of doctors working in CGHS dispensaries.

As per these guidelines, transfer of doctors from one dispensary to another is normally made by the concerned Additional/Joint Director of the CGHS organisation in the concerned CGHS covered city after a period of three to four years. The period of stay at a particular place may also extend upto five years also.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Replacing the test of injection syringes by LAL-test

2684. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started replacing the test of injection syringes produced in India, which is done on rabbits for toxicity and pyrogencity, by LAL-test;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any time-frame has been set to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Schedule R1 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules prescribe standards for sterile Hypodermic Syringes for single use *vide* IS 10258 —1982. These standards specify test for pyrogen and undue toxicity. These standards have now been replaced by IS 10258 — 2002 corresponding to ISO 7886-1-1993 wherein the test for pyrogen and undue toxicity has been deleted. The new standards are under printing by BIS. Accordingly the matter will now be taken up by Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) for necessary amendment in Sch. R1 in respect of standards of sterile Hypodermic Syringes for single use on the basis of latest BIS standards IS 10258 — 2002.

(c) Does not arise.

Free condoms at liquor vendors

2685. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of free condoms at liquor vendors has been launched with a view to checking spread of AIDS;

(b) whether this scheme will be introduced on a large scale in the country; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a scheme for free distribution of condoms through NGOs and health functionaries is in place, under the National AIDS Control Programme, to make condoms accessible to target population.

Utilization of funds by States

†2686. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are not making proper utilization of funds provided under Central schemes;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.